

## RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

colonial and semi-colonial countries, but of course only when a strong Communist Party has been established there.<sup>15</sup>

No less eloquent was Sultan-zadeh. Displaying an imposing knowledge of Marxist dialectics in the field of economics, Sultan-zadeh severely criticized Kuusinen's report. To him the proposed division of oriental countries into separate categories seemed erroneous. He expressed it forcefully by saying:

Comrades, when I received the Theses and began to read them, I imagined for a moment that I was not in Moscow, but in one of the colonies with which Comrade Kuusinen's Theses are dealing. And as much as I endeavored to get Persia into this scheme which divides all colonial and serai-colonial countries into four groups, I did not succeed in this. How does it stand with Persia in reality? *Can Persia skip over the capitalist development?* 1° Is it possible to establish immediately the Soviet regime in Persia, or must one proclaim there on the day after the Revolution the democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry? Can we develop in Persia the agrarian revolution, or should we abstain from this there also? Unfortunately, I have received no answer to these questions which are of such great interest to us.

I think that Comrade Kuusinen's scheme is on too general lines; there is no concretization whatever; the countries are grouped in a manner which makes it very difficult to give every country its proper place. . . . I am convinced that the Turkish comrades are in the same boat. I am sure that the comrades from the Arabian countries are as badly off in this respect as I \_\_\_\_\_

Having thus criticized Kuusinen's report on general lines, Sultan-zadeh appealed for greater precision:

What tactic must we adopt in Persia, which is situated between the country of proletarian dictatorship and the great colony, India? . . . These Theses must become an instrument in the hands of the

oppressed colonial  
slaves with the help of which they will be able to enter  
upon the path of  
their liberation.<sup>17</sup>

In reply to this and other criticisms of Eastern  
delegates Comrade  
Vassiliev of the Communist party of the Soviet Union  
presented his  
views on the defects that are typical of the  
Communist parties in the

is *International Press Correspondence*, VIII, 1469.

i<sup>6</sup> Italics mine.

17 *Ibid.*, p. 1359.